

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 AF-04 NSC-05 NSCE-00
USIE-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 SY-01 EUR-08 SP-02 PRS-01 INR-05
INRE-00 CIAE-00 ARAE-00 /053 W
-----171952Z 088936 /46

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4354

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0555

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: AFRICAN EFFORTS TO BOYCOTT PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH

1. FONMIN WILLS CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE A FEW MINUTES AGO TO SAY HE HAD RECEIVED A CALL FROM HIS UN MISSION INDICATING THAT A GROUP OF AFRICAN DELEGATIONS WERE ORGANIZING A BOYCOTT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S APPEARANCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS THIS EVENING. GUYANA'S REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY SALIM OF TANZANIA WHO SOLICITED GUYANA'S COOPERATION IN THE BOYCOTT. THE REASONS GIVEN WERE THAT (A) SOUTH AFRICA WAS INVITED TO ATTEND THE SESSION AND (B) SALIM CLAIMED TO HAVE ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD SAY SOMETHING OBJECTIONABLE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND AFRICA IN GENERAL.

2. WILLS ASKED IF I COULD TELL HIM ANYTHING OF THE SITUATION. HE DID NOT WANT GUYANA'S DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY BOYCOTT OR WALK-OUT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH. HOWEVER, BEFORE HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH BURNHAM HE WANTED ALL POSSIBLE INFORMATION HE COULD GET.

3. I TOLD WILLS THAT I KNEW NOTHING OF THE SITUATION HE HAD
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DESCRIBED BUT I COULD NOT IMAGINE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD SAY ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE OFFENSIVE. AS FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS, THEY REMAIN MEMBERS OF THE UN AND OBVIOUSLY HAD BEEN INVITED BY SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. A WALK-OUT WOULD NOT PARTICULARLY AFFECT THE SOUTH AFRICANS BUT IT WOULD BE A SLAP AT PRESIDENT CARTER AND WALDHEIM. IT WOULD ALSO FURTHER WEAKEN THE UN

IN THE EYES OF THE US PUBLIC AND WOULD REFLECT BADLY ON THE NATIONS THAT ENGAGED IN SUCH TACTICS. I EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT IF GUYANA PARTICIPATED IN SUCH A BOYCOTT IT WOULD ERRADICATE THE FAVORABLE IMPACT OF HIS WASHINGTON VISIT.

4. WILLS SAID THAT HE AGREED AND IN MY PRESNECE CALLED HIS UN DELEGATION AND SAID THAT HE OPPOSED ANY WALK-OUT BY GUYANA AND THAT NO COMMITMENTS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE AFRICAN GROUP (HEADED BY TANZANIAN AND BENIN REPS). HE WOULD GIVE THEM FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AFTER HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH BURNHAM.

5. AFTER I RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY, WILLS CALLED AGAIN AND SAID BURNHAM HAD AGREED WITH HIM AND THAT HE HAD GIVEN THE GUYANESE DELEGATION FIRM INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO JOIN ANY BOYCOTT OR WALK-OUT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH. BLACKEN

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